be maintained by the public agencies as per the buffer stocking policy adopted by the Government are as under:

(*Million Tonnes*)

Date	*Rice*	*Wheat*	*Total*
1st October	6.0	10.6	16.6

The stock of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1.10.1991, was of the order of 15.6 million tonnes, comprising 7.00 million tonnes of rice and 8.6 million tonnes of wheat.

(c) Although, the present stocks of wheat and rice are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of Public Distribution System, all possible efforts are being made, in corporation with the State Governments, to maximise procurement for the central pool.

Drought Prone Area Programme

4435. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the Drought Prone Area Programme launched in the country in terms of maximising the agricultural production in good rainfall years and minimising the crop losses when the rainfall is not adequate by adopting suitable low-cost soil and moisture conservation measures on a scientific basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the above programme is likely to be continued and if so, the Central assistance given to the States concerned financially and technically since the start of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) A final decision on the Report of the National Committee recommending transfer of the Drought Prone Areas Programme to the States has not yet been taken. The Central Assistance given to the States concerned since the start of the programme and upto March 91 amounts to Rs. 619.21 crores.

Setting up of Expert Committee to Recommend Norms for Fixation of Water Rates

4436. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up an expert Committee to recommend the norms for fixing water rates in a bid to rationalise irrigation water tariff;

(b) if so, by what time the Committee is likely to submit its interim report; and

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on pricing of Irrigation water on 23.10.1991.

(b) The Committee will submit the final report within four months from the date of notification.

(c) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are contained in the attached statement.